

## World Peace

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“If there’s one more gift I’d ask of you Lord it would be peace here on Earth, as gentle as your children's laughter all around, all around”. These are few lines taken from an inspiring song which best shows the thirst of people for world peace. What is really peace?

Peace or in our local term, *Paz* according to the Wikipedia literally describes a society or a relationship that is operating harmoniously and without violent conflict. Peace is commonly understood as the absence of hostility or the existence of healthy or newly healed interpersonal or international relationships, safety in matters of social or economic welfare, the acknowledgment of equality and fairness in political relationships. In international relations, peacetime is the absence of any war or conflict.

In my simple ways, world peace is a bond that ties the people together. Imagine the world without peace. Isn't it devastating to live a life in darkness? Having no friends to talk to and at the end of the day you go home you walk in an alley that in every step you take, your heart pounds so fast and when you reach home, you witness your family members fighting as soldiers in a battlefield? You go to school not to learn but to be a part of a war scenario? See. If there's peace, people will be able to live a life to the fullest, to enjoy and be a part of a friendly atmosphere where they truly belong.

World peace, furthermore, is the mother of our progress for a nation or a city perhaps can't make any progress without peace. A very concrete example is Zamboanga City, can we tell that this place where we are now is at peace? Maybe. Others will say yes while others will say no. For if this place is really at peace, there's no terrorist who will surprise you with a bang, neither rebels or activists who will rally here and there against the administration.

World peace is not hard to achieve as long as we live with it and put it in our hearts and minds. We must respect one another, follow the rules, no prejudicial, avoid any practice of discrimination and work together regardless of religion. To be at one with God is to be at peace ... peace is to be found only within, and unless one finds it there he will never find it at all. Peace lies not in the external world. It lies within one's own soul. I hope we translate the “Peace be With You” we utter in the church into reality.